

## ABSTRACT

A tape drive system and method of operating a tape drive system are provided. The tape drive system may include: a stationary base; at least one guide projection mounted to the stationary base; and a receiver for receiving a tape cartridge and transporting the tape cartridge from an ejected position to a loaded position, the receiver including at least one guide slot mating with one of the guide projections, each guide slot being shaped to allow the receiver to move a first distance in a horizontal direction and a second distance in a vertical direction. The method of loading a tape cartridge into a tape drive system having a stationary base and at least one guide projection mounted to the stationary base may include: receiving a tape cartridge in a receiver having at least one guide slot having a first portion and a second portion; and moving the receiver from an ejected position to a loaded position. This moving of the receiver may be performed by passing the guide projection through the first portion of the guide slot to move the receiver a first distance in a horizontal direction; and passing the guide projection through the second portion of the guide slot to move the receiver a second distance in a vertical direction.